

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Chanute Medallion Ceremony
- Keith DeWyke Receives His Medals
- Veteran Services Update
- Kansas Veterans' Home Updates
- Kansas Soldiers' Home Updates

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Chanute Medallion Ceremony



The American Legion Post 170 hosted a public ceremony honoring Vietnam Veterans on July 19, 2014, at the Santa Fe Park in Chanute, KS. The ceremony was held in conjunction with the Traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall's only stop in Kansas in 2014. An estimated 1,000 from the community were there for the event.

Executive Director Gregg Burden, Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs Office (KCVAO), spoke to the crowd and handed out 112 Kansas Vietnam Era War Medallions and

Certificates. Ryon Knopp and Kayla Alexander, Mobile VSRs, were also in attendance from the KCVAO.



Keith DeWyke Receives His Medals



A ceremony and dinner were held on July 29, 2014, to present ten medals to WWII Army Veteran and Kansas Veterans' Home resident Keith DeWyke by Congressman Mike Pompeo.



Keith's medals were either not issued or lost over the years, so his family contacted the Congressman's office. Medals he received that evening are the Combat Infantry Bar, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army of Occupation Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, American Campaign Medal, World War II Victor Medal, Honorable Service Lapel Button, Army Good Conduct Medal, and the Presidential Unit Citation.

Joining Keith at dinner were three other residents who were also WWII Army Veterans. Also in attendance were Congressman Pompeo's staff and Mr. DeWyke's family. There was a good turnout of veterans who work at KVH, and also from the area VFW and American Legion Posts. Executive Director Gregg Burden and Past Vice-Chairman of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs, Jim Buterbaugh, were also present.

Congressman Mike Pompeo and Director Gregg Burden, KCVAO



Veterans Services Update

Recent Changes to Veterans Services in Western Kansas

With the beginning of the new State Fiscal Year there were changes in how the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs Office Veteran Services Program provides assistance in the western areas of the state. Two offices consolidated operations and we opened a new office in the heart of Manhattan, an area long concentrated with military, retirees and veterans alike. Marysville, previously a KCVAO Field Office location, will now be serviced by the new Manhattan office with monthly itinerant stops. The Garden City field office officially realigned with the Ft. Dodge Field Office. Two veterans services representatives will service all 17 counties in Southwest Kansas including three full day visits to Garden City every month. When the dust finally settles we will have two fully accredited veteran services representatives (VSR's) at the field offices in Hays, Ft Dodge, Salina, and Manhattan. Additionally, we will continue to provide outstanding support with single VSR offices at Colby and Junction City. The intent of the two person offices is to have one individual in the office at all times when the office is open and the other VSR conducting itinerant/home visits and outreach functions as needed. This concept helps provide better support services to our veterans and their dependents.

Veterans Helping Veterans

We are very excited to introduce an excellent group of new VSRs that have been selected to help us become a premiere advocacy organization and give the veterans of our state the best service possible.

Ms. Judy Thompson has been on board at the Salina Field Office since April 2014. She is a transplant to Kansas originally from Akron, Ohio. Judy retired from the Army at Ft. Riley Her and husband have two children. She likes to read, walk her dogs, and play games on her tablet in her spare time. Judy is excited to have the opportunity to continue to serve veteran Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines.

Mr. Michael McWhorter is our Junction City Field Office VSR. He is a native Kansan from the Salina area. He and his wife have eight children between them. Michael spent 24 years in the army and he currently enjoys fishing in his spare time. He looks forward to serving the men and women of the great state that gave so much of themselves in the service of our nation.

Mr. Eric Hilton is the Manhattan Field Office VSR. He was born in Stuttgart, Germany while his father was serving in the military overseas. Eric's Army career spanned over 16 years of service as a Tank Crewmember, Helicopter Repairman, and a Criminal Investigator and his assignments took him to Ft Riley, Germany, and Alaska as well as Deployments to Kosovo, Kuwait, and Iraq. Eric lives in Manhattan with his wife and four children where he enjoys woodworking and off-roading in his jeep. He takes personal satisfaction helping veterans get the benefits they deserve.

Mr. Tommy Drewel is our most recent Ft. Dodge Field Office VSR. Tommy is a home grown Marine veteran born and raised in Great Bend, Kansas. While a Marine he was selected for an elite position with the Fleet Antiterrorism Security Team (F.A.S.T. CO.), 4th Platoon. Tommy moved back to Kansas after separating from the military and he is married with two daughters. He enjoys spending time with his family and he keeps physically fit lifting weights and working out. Tommy is a member of the local VFW and he can't wait to meet and help his fellow veterans in Southwest Kansas.

Kansas Veterans' Home

Triplett Grand Opening

The Kansas Veterans' Home is excited to announce the opening of Triplett Hall. Please join us for a grand opening celebration and open house from 10:00 AM until noon on Thursday, October 16.



This expansion of resident services will allow the Home to care for a total of 142 residents in nursing care and 48 in assisted living care. Since consolidating nursing home operations to Bleckley Hall in 2009, the facility has stayed at near-capacity census with 96 nursing care beds.

On Monday, October 20, the Home will hold a job fair featuring opportunities to meet KVH managers to discuss the process of applying for state civil service positions and tour the facility. The fair will run from 9:00 AM through 9:00 PM.

Kansas Veterans' Home
is
Opening 40 new long term care beds

JOB FAIR
October 20, 9am to 9pm
1220 WWII Memorial Dr, Winfield, KS

Applications will be accepted for:

- ✓ RN's
- ✓ LPN's
- ✓ CMA's
- ✓ CNA's
- ✓ Social Worker
- ✓ Housekeeping
- ✓ Dietary
- ✓ Maintenance

Our benefit options take care of you and your family

Proudly Serving Veterans

Kansas Veterans' Home

National Officer Visit

National Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary President Ann Panteleakos stopped in Winfield on her national tour just to see the Kansas Veterans' Home. The VFWA has been an important partner since KVH opened with various projects including bingo sessions, Cheer Cart, welcome bags, birthday parties and holiday celebrations. Current VFWA Representative Donna Miller of Wellington joins with her deputies Valmarie Wood of Arkansas City and Shirley Booe from Winfield to enhance the lives of residents in many ways.

Ms. Miller and Ms. Wood welcomed Department of Kansas President Sherri Jeffery, Junior Vice-President Loretta Bargeman, Guard Ruth Jensen, Hospital Chair Roberta Perue and former Department President Ethel Maske along with Ms. Panteleakos. Third District VFW Commander Edward Brake and former Department Chaplain Lloyd Miller assisted in hosting duties.



KVH appreciates the support of the VFWA and all veteran service organizations as we work to provide for our very special residents.



National VFWA President Ann Panteleakos in the center

Kansas Soldiers' Home

Cavalry Downs Rides Again

Residents of Fort Dodge are at it again!

Sponsored by the Fort Dodge Neighborhood Watch (NW) Program, a small committee of dedicated resident veterans has brought about the renovation of our miniature golf course.



The committee made up of resident veterans and spouses cleaned, patched, weeded, cut and trimmed our mini golf course into an entertaining outdoor activity for everyone in our community to enjoy. With a little help from the Resident Benefit Fund and private donors, new turf was installed and the final touches on painting were finished this week by several weary but very satisfied residents. “With all the rain we’ve had this year and the many years of neglect, the project has been challenging”, said one volunteer. But, all agree the project has been worth the effort and the result will bring another opportunity for all residents to enjoy themselves and with their families for years to come.

Dubbed by the resident committee as “Cavalry Downs”, the course will host its first mini golf tournament over the next couple of months. “Its all about having choices in activities and being able to have some outdoor fun right here in our community”, said another committee member. “We have a beautiful community and it is really great to be able to get outside and enjoy it”.



Kansas Soldiers' Home - Continued

Residents in Action

Fort Dodge is home to veterans who believe participating in efforts to provide a higher quality of life is the right thing to do. As a result, the Fort Dodge Neighborhood Watch (NW) Program was established and has now become an integral part of our community.

Although, at the outset some folks had reservations the NW program has enriched the community and been key to securing our property.

Through NW community members have received Storm Watch training from the Dodge City NO-AA, training in the use of the registered offender program and will receive additional training on topics such as home security, and personal safety. Coming up later this fall the Ford County Sheriff's Department, sponsored by our local NW, will conduct "Operation ID", a no cost program to mark valuable possessions and secure your home.



In the beginning, we were all amazed at the level of night time activity in our community. Most of us had the perception that we lived in a very quiet, isolated village apart from all the bad things going on in the world around us. Turns out, the world does reach into our community after hours and we are now able to safely monitor those activities.

Staff too, has benefited from the presence of NW patrols. Especially over night shift members. In bad weather, or when they feel a bit vulnerable, NW provides secure escorts to their vehicles.

Local law enforcement is sponsors for the program and has given us a very enthusiastic endorsement to our program and our cooperation level has never been higher. All in all, the Fort Dodge Neighborhood Watch has given us a safer, more secure and happier community.

Dan Hartman
Fort Dodge Neighborhood Watch



Cemetery Program Update

Wreaths Across America

2014 will mark the 23rd anniversary of holiday wreaths being donated to decorate graves at Arlington National Cemetery. The ninth year of a national campaign-dubbed Wreaths Across America brought the same remembrance wreaths to hundreds of participating locations.

Remember the Fallen;
Honor those Who Serve;
Teach our Children the Value of Freedom.

Please join us on **Saturday, December 13, 2014, at 11:00 am**, at one of the four State Veterans' Cemeteries to pay remembrance:

Kansas Veterans' Cemetery at Fort. Dodge
Kansas Veterans' Cemetery at WaKeeney
Kansas Veterans' Cemetery at Winfield
Kansas Veterans' Cemetery at Fort. Riley

Seven ceremonial wreaths will be placed to remember those who gave their lives in service for our country. Specially made wreaths for Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Marines, and POW/MIAs will be placed by representatives from each branch of service during the ceremony.

These specially made wreaths are donated by Worcester Wreath Company in Harrington, Maine. Morrill Worcester, President of Worcester Wreath Company, explains his desire to develop the Wreaths Across America project:

"Our goal is to expand the recognition of those who serve our country, both past, present, and future, as well as their families who deserve our support. Without the sacrifices of our veterans, there would be no opportunity to enjoy the freedoms, the life we live today."



"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." —John F. Kennedy



Upcoming Events

Kansas Veterans' Home

October

- 16 - Fall Carnival for Community Kids
- 16 - Triplett Ribbon Cutting Ceremony with Governor Brownback
- 20 - KVH Job Fair

November

- 13 - ALA National President Visit to KVH
- 25 - KVH Annual Staff Potluck

December

- 1 - ALA Gift Shop at KVH Opens
- 12 - KVH Christmas Party

Kansas Soldiers' Home

October

- 10 - Carving/cooking with Pumpkins
- 16 - Oktoberfest Lunch
- 17 - OKC Thunder vs. Toronto in Wichita
- 17 - Fort Dodge Garage Sale
- 18 - Fort Dodge Garage Sale
- 31 - KSH Halloween Festivities

2nd Annual
**Topeka
Veterans
Parade**
Saturday,
November 8th, 2014
11am
Downtown Topeka
**Help us welcome
our heroes home!**
WWW.TOPEKAVETERANSPARADE.COM

Topeka Veterans Day Parade Sponsorship: <http://www.topekaveteransparade.com/>

Military Veterans Project

Mission

To advocate, educate and honor our Military Veterans & families through program support. The Military Veteran Project has assisted veterans & service members with medical advocacy, peer to peer support, post-traumatic stress disorder treatments and assisted in suicide prevention. Educated military spouses, military families and the community on reintegration, traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, and financial planning honored military veterans by assisting families with burial support and ensuring that all military veterans are buried with full honors. Remember 100% of your donation goes directly to the cause, your donation will make a difference and we need your help to assist more veterans daily.

Your donation and support helped create the numbers below;

1,283 Veterans
462 Military Families
132 Active duty single soldiers
12 War widows
4 Gold Star families

Get Involved - Volunteer - Donate

<http://www.militaryveteranproject.org/index.html>



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SPECIAL NOTICE:

If you are a veteran in emotional crisis and need help RIGHT NOW, call this toll-free number **1-800-273-8255**, available 24/7, and tell them you are a veteran. All calls are confidential.